

PERMISSION FOR CERTAIN COMMITTEES TO SIT TOMORROW, FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1995, DURING 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. BONILLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the following committees and their subcommittees be permitted to sit tomorrow while the House is meeting in the Committee of the Whole House under the five-minute rule: the Committee on Commerce, the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

It is my understanding that the minority has been consulted and that there is no objection to these requests.

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, the minority simply wants to say it has been consulted in all these cases and does agree.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

Mr. SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members are recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. WELDON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WELDON of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. TOWNS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. TOWNS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HEFLEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. FILNER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. SMITH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SMITH of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FEDERAL FOOD ASSISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, a compelling case can be made against the proposal to convert Federal nutrition programs into block grants.

That case will be made tonight.

Over the next 2 hours, the American public will hear from many of our colleagues about the dangers of certain provisions of H.R. 4, the Personal Responsibility Act.

That is the bill that contains provisions to slash school lunches and breakfasts.

That bill will remove thousands of women, infants and children from the WIC Program. National nutrition standards will be eliminated by the bill. And States will be able to transfer as much as 24 percent of nutrition funds for non-nutrition uses.

But, the impact of this proposed bill goes even deeper.

Retail food sales will decline by \$10 billion, farm income will be reduced by as much as \$4 billion and unemployment will increase by as many as 138,000.

The security of America's economy is at stake.

From grocery stores, large and small, to the farmer and food service worker—everyone will suffer. Most States will lose money.

But, the case becomes even more compelling when viewed in a broader context.

The House Appropriations Committee is pushing a recession package that, when combined with the proposed cuts in the nutrition programs, will squeeze those most in need in ways we have not seen in America, since the Great Depression of the 1930's.

Nearly \$2 billion will be cut from education programs, including money for drug free schools and educational support for the disadvantaged.

Also \$3 billion will be cut from programs that move teenagers from school to work, including complete elimination of the Summer Jobs Program.

Our seniors and veterans do not escape this blind axe.

Billions will be cut in federally assisted senior citizen housing. The 2 million needy senior citizens who benefit from the Fuel Assistance Program

may go cold. That program will be completely eliminated.

That committee's bill cuts \$50 million in funds for veterans' medical equipment and facilities.

Billions of the money saved by these cuts will go to the top 3 percent wage earners in the United States in the form of a 50 percent cut in the capital gains tax.

They want capital gains cuts. We want an increase in the minimum wage. They want block grants. We want healthy Americans.

They want a full plate for those with money. We want to restore Federal food assistance programs. And, we will. The nutrition of our citizens should not be left to chance.

Mr. Speaker, all of the nutrition programs are important.

I would like to highlight one of them to demonstrate the poor judgment of those pushing passage of H.R. 4.

That is the WIC Program. WIC works.

It is a program that services low income and at risk women, infants, and children.

Pregnant women, infants 12 months and younger, and children from 1 to 5 years old, are the beneficiaries of the WIC Program.

For every dollar this Nation spends on WIC prenatal care, we save up to \$4.21.

The budget cutting efforts we are experiencing are aimed at reducing the deficit.

The deficit is being driven by rising health care costs.

When we put money into WIC, we save money in Medicaid. The equation is simple.

Those who have a genuine interest in deficit reduction can help achieve that goal by investing in WIC.

The WIC Program embraces the unborn; provides nurturing and care; is devoted to maternal health; helps insure life at birth; and promotes the growth and development of millions of our children.

And, it saves us money.

WIC works. Let's keep it working.

The Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities has proposed radical changes in the school lunch and WIC programs.

If these changes stand, 275,000 women, infants, and children will be removed from the WIC Program. Nutritious meals served in 185,000 family day care centers will be eliminated. School food programs will be reduced by \$309 million.

In contrast, the Agriculture Committee has proposed keeping the Food Stamp Program as an entitlement. The committee is to be commended.

It seems inconsistent, however, to retain food stamps as an entitlement, a program that has had some problems with fraud and abuse, while block granting the WIC and school lunch programs.